

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ (1) for converting a flow of matter (4) containing hydrocarbons to a hydrogen-enriched fluid flow (10), comprising:

with a heating apparatus (5) for production of a heating stream (6);~~[[.]]~~

~~whereby the flow of matter (4) is converted in a first converter (2) as well as and in a second converter (3) arranged behind said first converter in a flow direction to a hydrogen-rich fluid flow (10),~~ wherein the flow of matter (4) is converted in the first converter and second converter; and

a first heating element (8) that is flowed-through by a the heating stream is ~~provided~~ for heating at least one of the first and second converters (2, 3), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in at least one operating phase, the heating stream (6) for the second converter (3) flows completely in a counterflow direction to the flow of educt matter (4); and

an outlet opening, wherein the heating stream (6) is separated into two flue gas partial flows, wherein one of the flue gas partial flows is provided with a flap for closing the outlet opening.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least in one operating phase, the heating stream (6) for the first and second converters (2, 3) flows completely in a counterflow direction to the flow of educt matter (4).

3. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one second heating element (9) that is flowed-through by the heating stream (6) is provided for heating one of the first and second converters (2, 3) in a start phase.

4. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one second heating element (9) is disposed between the first and second converters (2, 3).

5. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an inlet opening (12) and/or an outlet opening (11) of the first and/or second heating element (6, 8) has at least one apportioning element for apportioning the heating stream (6).

6. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus (1) according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one control unit is provided for controlling the apportioning element.

7. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second converters (2, 3) and/or the first and second heating elements (8, 9) are arranged approximately coaxially to one another.

8. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heating apparatus (5) is arranged approximately coaxially to the converters (2, 3) and/or the heating elements (8, 9).

9. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heating apparatus (5) is arranged approximately centrally to the converters (2, 3) and/or the heating elements (8, 9).

10. (currently amended) ~~A fuel~~ Fuel cell assembly with a fuel cell unit and an apparatus (1) for converting a hydrocarbon-containing flow of matter (4) to a hydrogen-enriched fluid flow (10), whereby the flow of matter (4) is converted in a first converter (2) ~~as well as~~ and in a second converter (3) arranged behind the first converter (2) in a flow direction, to a hydrogen-enriched fluid flow (10), ~~and wherein~~ wherein a heating apparatus (5) is provided for production of a heating stream (6) as well as a first ~~heating element~~ (8) that is flowed-through by the heating stream (6) for heating at least one of the first and second converters (2, 3), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the apparatus (1) is formed according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended) A motor ~~Motor~~ vehicle with a fuel cell assembly, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fuel cell assembly is formed according to claim 10.